



# LEBANON



## INTRODUCTION

Following World War I, France acquired a mandate over the northern portion of the former Ottoman Empire province of Syria. The French demarcated the region of Lebanon in 1920 and granted this area independence in 1943. Lebanon's borders with Syria and Israel remain unresolved.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Michel AUN

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Hassan DIAB (caretaker)

### Government Type

parliamentary republic

### Capital

Beirut

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Nu'wab in Arabic or Assemblée Nationale in French (128 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 10,400 sq km  
Land: 10,230 sq km  
Water: 170 sq km

### Climate

Mediterranean; mild to cool, wet winters with hot, dry summers; the Lebanon Mountains experience heavy winter snows

### Natural Resources

limestone, iron ore, salt, water-surplus state in a water-deficit region, arable land

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

upper middle-income Middle Eastern economy; economic activity hurt by economic depression, COVID-19, and port explosion; hyperinflation and sharp poverty increases; banks have ceased lending; new financing facility helping with recovery

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$79.51 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$11,600 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - banking, tourism, real estate, construction, food processing, wine, jewelry, cement, textiles, mineral/chemical products, wood/furniture products, oil refining, metal fabricating  
**Agricultural products** - potatoes, milk, tomatoes, apples, oranges, olives, wheat, cucumbers, poultry, lemons

**Exports** \$3.524 billion (2017 est.)

gold, jewelry, shotguns, diamonds, scrap copper (2019)

**partners:** Switzerland 27%, UAE 15%, South Korea 11%, Saudi Arabia 7%, Kuwait 6% (2019)

**Imports** \$18.34 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, packaged medicines, jewelry, gold (2019)

**partners:** UAE 11%, China 10%, Italy 8%, Greece 8%, Turkey 7%, US 6% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

5.3 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.68% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%

### Language

Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian

### Religion

Muslim 61.1% (30.6% Sunni, 30.5% Shia), Christian 33.7% Druze 5.2% (2018 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 89.1% of total population (2021)  
rate of urbanization: -1.23% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

### Literacy

95.1% (2018)

